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From the Imperial Camp between Villa Franca *and* Povejano, *July* 20. *N. S.*

THE 11th Inſtant we lay ſtill in our Camp near *Paglia*, as well to refreſh the Army, which was very much fatigued by the Heat of the Weather, and their tireſom Marches, as to expect our Proviſions of Bread from *Caſtelbaldo*, and our Artillery and Baggage from *Caſtel-Gulielmo*. Advice being brought, that the Enemy lay near *Sanguinedo*, the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment of *Commerci* was ſent that way with 200 Horſe, who brought an Account, that only a Detachment of the Enemy had been thereabouts, who ſet Fire to the Forage, and to ſome Houſes, and after that retired to their Camp at *Nogara*. The 12th, we marched and encamped at *Opeano*; The Regiment of Dragoons of *Diedrichſtein* was left behind, to cover the Artillery and Baggage which were coming to us. Count *Palfi*, Lieutenant-Field-Marſhal-General was commanded with 1000 Horſe to cover the March of the Army on the Left; he met the Enemy near *Bovolone*, charged their Advanced Guards, and killed 5 of their Men, took 2 Priſoners, and 6 Horſes, and on our ſide only one Dragoon was wounded. An Account came early this morning from Count *Guttenſtein*, that about midnight, the Enemy quitted privately all their Poſts at *Rivole* and *La Ferrara*; upon which he preſently took Poſſeſſion thereof; and Orders were ſent him to march forthwith with the Body under his Command to *Goſſolingo*, and to bring down to that Place a Bridge he had laid on the *Adige*, as likewiſe to cauſe all the Boats and Veſſels laden with Oats and Proviſions he had with him to fall down thither. The 13th, we reſted, to wait for our Artillery, Baggage, and Proviſions of Bread, which did not arrive till this day. Parties were ſent out, but met no Enemy, and only got Intelligence, that they had ſent their Artillery from *Iſola della Scala* towards the State of *Mantua*, and began with part of their Army to march towards the *Mincio*. The Orders were repeated to Count *Guttenſtein* to bring our Proviſions down the *Adige* to *Goſſolingo*; And now that we have a free Communication by that River with the Country of *Tirol*, we deſign to diſpoſe our Magazines that way. The 14th, an Account came from Count *Guttenſtein*, that a Party of his Dragoons, whom he ſent after the Enemy, took at *Villa Franca* 4 *Milaneze* Troopers, and 7 *Spaniards*. We marched and encamped near *Butta-Preda*; but the Dragoons of *Diedrichſtein* were left behind to cover our Baggage, and the Detachments commanded by General *Vaubonne* and Baron *Riedt* were ordered to join them. We ſent out Parties to get Intelligence of the Enemy, and underſtood that they lay near *Nogancole* and *St. Zeno*. Another Party brought in a *Spaniſh* Lieutenant of Dragoons, and a *French* Trooper. The 15th, before we began to march, Orders were ſent to Count *Guttenſtein* to come away from *Goſſolingo*, and to join the Army. We encamped in this Place between *Villa Franca* and *Povejano*, where we arrived in order of Battel, there being Advice, that the Enemy were but 3 little miles from *Villa Franca*, and every body believing we ſhould engage this day. We ſent out Parties to get Intelligence, who brought back 21 Priſoners, and 20 Horſes; theſe Priſoners, as well as ſome Deſerters, ſaid, that the Enemy ſtood to their Arms all day long. The Detachments of *Vaubonne* and *Riedt* having made a very expeditious March, joined the Army, and ſoon after arrived the Regiment of Dragoons of *Diedrichſtein*, and an hour before night, came up the Body commanded by Count *Guttenſtein*. The 16th, we were on our guard all night, and ſeveral Parties were ſent out, by whom, as well as by the Country People, the Deſerters and Priſoners, we had an Account, that the Enemy were ſtill in order of Battel, and were ſending their Baggage to the *Mantueze*, and had not one Tent up in their Camp. Two Lieutenant-Colonels marched with 2 Detachments towards the Enemy, and ſent out ſmall Parties within 200 Paces of the Enemy's Lines, who killed 8 Men of their Advanced Guards, and took 21 Priſoners. This day, about 20 Deſerters came over to us, 12 of them being Troopers with all their Accoutrements, and the reſt Foot. The 17th, it was confirmed, that the Enemy had been two days and one night in order of Battel, without ſetting up one Tent, or foraging, or watering their Horſes, becauſe they had no Water near them, except ſome little Springs; but that yeſterday, about 10 at night, they marched without beat of Drum, or ſound of Trumpet, towards *Goito* and *Valeggio* on the *Mincio*; But we never could gueſs at the reaſon of their continuing ſo long in order of Battel, and going away thus privately, ſeeing their Camp was ſufficiently guarded all round by Ditches and Moraſſes, ſo that they could not expect that we ſhould attack them. In this day's march, they have, as far as they could reach, plundered and ſpoiled the Country, and made it a very Deſart. Some Deſerters came over to us, who confirmed this Account, and Baron *Riedt* was ſent to the *Mincio* to get Intelligence. The 18th, by break of day, Prince *Eugene* went along the *Mincio* as far as *Peſchiera*, to obſerve the Country, and in his way ſaw the Enemy's Camp on the other ſide near *Goito*, and a Detachment of 200 of their Horſe poſted at *Valeggio*. A Trumpeter was ſent that day to *Mantua*, with a Meſſage to the Duke of *Mantua*; but was anſwered, The Duke was not there; And when the Commander of the Garriſon was informed of the Trumpeter's Arrival, he ſent for him, and ordered him immediately to return to our Camp, and gave him a Convoy, who came with him as far as within a league of our Camp, and had Orders, if the Trumpeter ſhould drop any Letter or Note, to ſhoot him in the Head immediately; The Country is in great Confuſion, and the Inhabitants, as well on this, as on the other ſide the *Mincio*, do all retire to *Mantua*. The Prince of *Vaudemont* arrived there the 16th, and came to the *French* Army the next day. The 19th, Baron *Riedt* went out again to take a view of all the Roads and Avenues along the *Mincio*, and Prince *Eugene* did likewiſe obſerve the Enemy's Camp, who were drawn ſomewhat back; he found it very large, and acceſſible only on one ſide, and that alſo full of Defilees. Major-General *Serini* was ſent out with a Party of 500 Horſe, and advanced as far as *Caſtiglione* in the *Mantueze*, where he found a *Spaniſh* Party, conſiſting of 1 Captain, 1 Enſign, and 50 Common Soldiers, who, after exchanging a few Shot, ſurrendred themſelves; but it not being yet quite day, 8 Soldiers made their Eſcape, ſo only the 2 Officers and 41 Soldiers were brought away. The Major General ſent a Captain with 50 Horſe further towards the Enemy's Camp, who met a Party of 60 *French* Horſe, charged them, and drove them to their Main Guard, of whom they killed 6 or 7, and brought away one Priſoner; but as they were coming back, not knowing that the aforeſaid Party had with them ſome Foot, who hid themſelves in a little Houſe, they ſaluted our Men as they paſſed by with a Volley of Small Shot, but without killing or wounding one Man. Prince *Eugene* cauſed it to be ſignified to the Priſoners taken at *Caſtiglione*, who were moſt of them *Neapolitans*, as he had done before to the other *Spaniards* that were taken Priſoners, that he looked upon their being in Arms againſt us as a thing forced upon them; Therefore if they would oblige themſelves in Writing, and by Oath, not to ſerve any more againſt the Emperor, he would give them Paſſes to return home, or go where elſe they would. They all immediately embraced this Propoſal, except the Captain, who had particular Reaſons not to do it, and ſo remains a Priſoner. The 20th, a Detachment of 400 Horſe, and another of 200 Horſe, were commanded to cover the Foragers, who returned all ſafe to the Camp; and 140 great Sacks of Meal belonging to the Enemy being found in a little Houſe near their Camp, the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment of *Diedrichſtein* went thither with a Party of Horſe, and brought off the ſame without being diſcovered by any of the Enemy. Adjutant-General *Bacon Chara* went out as far as the Enemy's Camp to obſerve it, and reported, that a great part of their Army was on this ſide the *Mincio*, and that the Body which ſtood near *Valeggio*, was marched towards *Peſchiera*, leaving only 2 or 300 Horſe at *Valeggio*; that they had burnt the Wooden Bridge over the *Mincio*, and undermined another made of Stone, and that they are

drawing